

# Best And Worst Buys

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**Calvin Riedel, Dover, Ark.:** "Oddly enough," says Calvin, "my best and worst purchase was the same item from the same company, a Clay 1,500 gallon liquid spreader that I bought with three other farmers. It was a single axle job so you couldn't keep a drawbar on your tractor. We have a hilly farm so it pulled the tractor just about as much as the tractor was pulling it. Also, just about every time you went to the field, you'd get a shower bath with hog litter. The pump would spray back on you. We'd install new seals in it that would last a short while, then the same thing would happen again."

"Later, I enlarged my operation and had to buy one of my own. I bought the same size and put it on an old 1952 Chevy 2-ton truck. Have never had a minute of trouble with the pump on this unit in four years, hauling manure from 8,000 head of hogs. We've also found this unit to be very good for hauling water to fight woods and pasture fires last summer when we were so dry."

**Lyman McKee, Madison, Wis.:** "With today's high interest rates and continued efforts to build sales, the attitude of some companies toward their customers is enough to stagger the imagination."

"We are the owners of a Hagie weed sprayer and, because of the limited number of these machines, there is no local sales representative or parts depot. Any needed repairs must be ordered directly from the Hagie Company in Clarion, Iowa. During May of 1980, we ordered repairs, some of which were in error. We received a credit memo from Hagie in the amount of \$191.60. No money was returned to us, just the credit memo. For nominal amounts and, in the case of equipment dealers with whom we deal regularly, this is standard practice. In the case of Hagie, given the amount of the credit memo, plus the fact that it would be unlikely we would be ordering any items in the foreseeable future, I wrote to Hagie and asked them for reimbursement. I did not even receive the courtesy of a reply. They just kept the money."

"While preparing our annual year-end report, our auditors noted the amount and wrote to Hagie suggesting it be repaid to us. Again, no reply. Subsequently, I called the Hagie Company, and was told they would think it over but not to worry. Again, nothing happened so I wrote asking reimbursement and again, they do not even extend the courtesy of answering."

**Dale D. Bruns, Chappell, Neb.:** Dale nominates his John Deere 4840 tractor as a best buy. "In 1,500 hrs., this has been a basically trouble free tractor. Plenty of power, easy to operate, quiet. Like the hydraulic controlled sear."

**Jack Varner, Jr., Tallulah, La.:** "Can't keep the disk blades tight, the

mud scrapers come loose and stop the seed flow, and it's made from very light material," says Jack, disappointed with his 28-ft. Crustbuster double-disk opener grain drill. "We've asked for help from Crustbuster representatives and can't get help. We have two more Crustbuster 28-ft. drills — the hoe type — and we are very satisfied with their performance under any circumstances."

On the plus side, Jack's pleased with his International 3588 tractor. "Versatile, with 10 to 15% less fuel consumption and easy maintenance. Very pleased with its performance. Does the jobs that any dual wheel tractor does with less compaction."

**Ed Fenton, Sears, Mich.:** "We're nominating our Australian Blue Heelers as a 'best buy' in herding dogs. I do most of the work with our pigs alone and these dogs, with their bred-in ability to herd, have saved countless steps and having to hire extra help. Although they also herd cattle and sheep, they are fearless with swine, which we find quite remarkable," reports Ed.

**Mike Meier, Poplar Grove, Ill.:** "Our cows seem to enjoy it," says Mike, happy with his "best buy" Tox-O-Wik mineral feeder and back scratcher. "Although it was expensive, long term benefits make this unit a best buy for us. Dealer service is great. If there is a problem, one phone call solves it."

On the minus side, "Maes inflations were a big disappointment to us. We milk about 70 cows. We weren't happy with our DeLaval inflations, and thought we'd try something else. We're going back to DeLaval after only two milkings with Maes."

**Henry Chaput, Walhalla, N. Dak.:** "Last fall we bought a Tox-O-Wik 500 bu. grain dryer and are well satisfied with it. We especially like the grain cleaner on this model 570. It takes a lot of screenings out as you dry grain. Easy to operate."

**Phil Armstrong, Onca, Neb.:** "I bought a Farmhand 258 loader because they are supposed to be easy to put on and take off. I guess it would be if you had a perfectly level cement slab to do it on. Also the bucket doesn't tip back far enough to keep anything in it."

Phil nominates his Deere 4440 tractor as best buy. "This 4440 is by far my best purchase. Real handy and easy to run for the horsepower. I wouldn't know about service as it has never had to be in the shop."

**Doug Johnson, Moose Jaw, Sask.:** He's pleased with his Hesston 6450 swather with 15 and 20-ft. headers. "I'm pleased with performance of the tractor unit for handling, vision and operator comfort. The quick-attaching headers are easy to change and perform well in lentils, coarse grains, wheat and flax. The double-knife drive allows for fast cutting in

thick and hard to cut crops. Dealer service has been excellent."

**Jim Burtman, Alamo, N. Dak.:** Jim nominates three "best buys" — his Honda GL 1100 Interstate motorcycle, his Kongskilde air grain mover, and his 7000 Allis Chalmers tractor. "I have over 100 miles to go round trip for parts and, with the cycle get-

**"Somebody has to be on standby every time it's in use."**

ting 45 to 50 mpg at 70 mph, you'd be surprised at how much it saves. I can't think of anything I dislike about this bike.

"The grain mover, made in Denmark, does what it claims to do, and quietly. Our dealer has made sure we're satisfied in every way."

"The AC tractor is tops, except for shifting. You can't get it out of gear if it's stopped, and the company can't cure it."

On the minus side, Jim says he's disappointed with his Leon 43-ft. chisel plow. "Something is always wrong with it, from losing shanks to breaking the frame. Somebody has to be on standby every time it's in use. I can't see why the company can't put more pride and effort into their product."

**Garnet Grimm, Shellbrook, Sask.:** "Cleans just about everything. Does a great job!" says Garnet, pleased with his Deere 18A high pressure washer. "It really takes the dirt off machinery, pumping 520 psi at 1.8 gal. per minute. Light to pull or carry around, takes little space to store. No troubles at all with it."

**Charles Gunderson, Glenville, Minn.:** His "worst buy" nomination is his "Allis Chalmers Gleaner CII combine bought in 1979. I bought it used and have had to almost go completely through it front to back, top to bottom but mostly it's that the bearings are going out again and again. The dealer gives good service and that's the only reason it's still on the place. Repairs are finally getting fewer on it."

Charles adds that his Husqvarna model 65 chainsaw "has worked out well. Service was excellent in fixing a gasket leak and I have found no other saw to be as good for power, speed, handling and servicing."

**Michael Rose, Town Creek, Ala.:** "Since we bought ours, 19 additional units have been purchased by neighboring farmers," says Michael about his best-buy Commtronix FM 2-way radio system. "It performs efficiently and with very little problems. All neighboring farmers have the same frequency on one channel. We get prompt service from the factory in case of problems."

**Edwin P. Good, Grandview, Idaho:** "FARM SHOW is definitely my best buy," says Edwin. "I really enjoy all the new products featured in the magazine. The column I like least is

the Best and Worst Buys. As far as I'm concerned, it could be eliminated. Seems too radical for me."

**Richard Van Ee, Vermilion, Alberta:** "We've had 19 Fords in the past but we're going to try a GM this spring," says Richard, upset with his 1979 Ford F-150 pickup. Gas mileage is great but the steering is the worst I've ever seen. It's all over the road. We've had it back to the dealer 13 times but they say they can't fix it and told Ford Motor Co. about it. They say it's all right but it isn't. I feel this is Ford's problem and they won't look after it."

"Another bad buy was my Massey Ferguson 1135 tractor," Richard continues. "The rear end, the hydraulics and the pto have been nothing but trouble. We've spent about \$4,000 to \$5,000 on it and the tractor has only 1,500 hrs. on it. I wouldn't have another."

**Wayne Miller, Decatur, Iowa:** "We like Kewanee harrows for speed and endurance. Have had several used ones. The first new one I bought was a 21-ft. model. Just the right size for teenage boys to pick up and haul on the trailer. Then we bought a used 24-ft. model on a Lindsay cart and used it till the teeth wore down about half way. In 1980 we bought a new one from the dealer at Murray, Iowa. The teeth were just spot-welded in. I made a remark about it to the dealer before the sale was made and did lose some 6 to 8 teeth that year. Last fall the dealer called me to bring the harrow in. They repaired and repainted it. I call that service."

**Dennis Wischmeyer, Ottawa, Ohio:** "My Dad bought one with the same results," says Dennis, pleased with his Stihl 041 AV chain saw with a 20-in. roller tip bar. "We used it extensively and it's performed excellent since day one. Lots of power, smooth to run and not offensively noisy. Hasn't been back to the dealer since purchased last fall. Even though it was somewhat more expensive than another brand, I believe it was well worth it."

Dennis also likes his Earth Stove from Earth Stove Mid-American, Cambridge, Ohio. "It's an air-tight stove. I installed a Magic Heat in the chimney pipe and have used it two winters. Puts out a lot of heat with a minimum of wood."

**Mark Holl, Evansville, Minn.:** "My best purchases are a 588 White plow and a 15-ft. White Kwik-Cut soybean header. The 588 is practically impossible to plug with its 20-in. bottoms. Stalk fields are as black as most that have been chopped before plowing. The Kwik-Cut head allows faster field speeds with less shatter loss and is easy to repair because sections bolt on with 1/4 in. bolts."

Mark says his worst purchase was his "model 18A John Deere power washer. It's always been hard to get primed. Won't draw detergent from the reservoir and was at the dealer's for months but they never looked at it. I took it home and put a new solenoid valve in but it still did not help. It's awkward to move around and is overpriced."